

April 25 Forum Kickoff Meeting

The first meeting of the Puget Sound Nutrient Forum takes place:

April 25, 2018

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tukwila Community Center

The initial meeting will focus on:

- Expectations of Forum schedule
- Discussion of high-level issues
- How the marine water quality implementation strategy will work in tandem with the Forum
- Governance of the workgroup.

Future Meetings

We will be looking for feedback from all interested parties regarding challenges and issues for implementing nutrient reductions so that we can build a meeting schedule to address topics such as:

- Identify elements of a nutrient permitting approach for the Puget Sound region which builds on lessons from other States
- Discuss nonpoint nutrient reductions as a method to achieve watershed reductions
- Understand Puget Sound recovery targets, State and Federal responsibilities to prevent eutrophication
- Inform potential nutrient reduction scenarios which will be evaluated using the Salish Sea Model



What are excessive nutrients?

Nutrient over-enrichment, known as eutrophication, degrades water quality and negatively impacts aquatic life. As our regional population grows, we are seeing increased eutrophication throughout Puget Sound. However, we also know how to limit activities that contribute to nutrient over-enrichment. We must take steps to grow and develop in ways that won't degrade water quality, impair the ability of marine species to survive and thrive, or impair ecological systems that make Puget Sound more resilient to the effects of population growth and climate change.

You can learn more about the role of nitrogen in Puget Sound by exploring our story map at this website:

bit.ly/nitrogenstorymap

What is the Puget Sound Nutrient Forum?

The Puget Sound Nutrient Forum is a large public advisory workgroup created to discuss, learn, and provide input on how to reduce human sources of nutrients entering Puget Sound.

Invitees include decision makers from:

- The wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) and stormwater regulated community
- Tribes
- Environmental groups
- Agencies and water quality/nonpoint practitioners

Through a series of meetings, the group will discuss implementation issues with a variety of perspectives for Ecology to consider when deciding policy and regulatory actions to pursue, and inform Puget Sound recovery actions.

Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Project

The Forum is part of the larger [Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Project¹](https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Puget-Sound/Helping-Puget-Sound/Reducing-Puget-Sound-nutrients). The Project relies on best-available science and a collaborative approach to guide actions that will restore and protect Puget Sound water quality.

This Forum is also connected to the development of the Marine Water Quality Implementation Strategy (MWQ IS) which is part of the Puget Sound Action Agenda and Vital Signs. The MWQ IS and the Forum will work together in a multi-pronged approach to help improve our understanding of the complex problems caused by nutrient over-enrichment and the complex solutions that will be needed to reduce human sources of nutrients discharged to Puget Sound.

¹<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Puget-Sound/Helping-Puget-Sound/Reducing-Puget-Sound-nutrients>